

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-08 ARA-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 /134 W

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P R 011517Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5547

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: WESTERN GROUP MEETING, FEB 28

REF: A. STATE 43282, B. STATE 42825

1. SUMMARY: WESTERN GROUP MET AFTERNOON OF FEB 28 AT U.S. MISSION TO DISCUSS APPROACH TO PROCEDURAL ISSUES, COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM, AND OTHER ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER KLAUW) CHAIRED FEB 28 MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) ASKED THAT DATE FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) INFORMAL MEETINGS BE RESCHEDULED TO APR 12-17 SINCE FRG EXPERTS NOT AVAILABLE
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FOR MARCH 28-APRIL 2 MEETINGS. NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTED APRIL CW INFORMALS WOULD BE MORE "GENERAL CHARACTER" (I.E., COMMENTS ON UK DRAFT AND SECRETARIAT'S PAPER) WHICH COULD BE HANDLED BY NON-EXPERTS WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS; CW WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN GREATER DETAIL, NECESSITATING EXPERT PARTICIPATION, DURING SUMMER SESSION. UK, CANADA, ITALY AND US AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO CHANGE

DATE. FRG REP SAID HE WOULD REPORT BACK TO HIS GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDING THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO AGREE WITH DATES FOR CW MEETINGS. JAPANESE REP (OGISO) ASKED US REP (MEYERS) IF HE COULD TELL GROUP ISSUES ON AGENDA FOR US-USSR BILATERALS ON CW. US REP SAID BILATERALS WERE CONTINGENT ON A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGENDA AND, ALTHOUGH PROPOSED AGENDA HAD BEEN SENT TO MOSCOW, SOVIET DELEGATION HAS NOT YET RESPONDED. US REP SAID HE WOULD INFORM GROUP AS SOON AS AGENDA WAS AGREED UPON.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES, COMMENTS CENTERED ON THREE ASPECTS: CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, PERMANENT CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMAL MEETINGS, AND PARTICIPATION OF NON-CCD MEMBERS IN NEGOTIATION OF TREATY TEXTS. ITALY NOTED MEXICAN REP'S (GARCIA ROBLES) STATEMENT THAT ABOLISHING CO-CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD ENABLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN CCD. NETHERLANDS DEL (MEERBURG) SAID MEMBER OF FRENCH UN DEL AT NEW YORK LUNCHEON, WAS ASKED IF FRANCE WOULD TAKE ITS SEAT IN CCD IF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP WERE ABOLISHED. FRENCH REP REPLIED, "I DON'T KNOW HOW WE COULD REFUSE." OTHER WESTERN GROUP MEMBERS RELATED LESS OPTIMISTIC RESPONSES FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS. CANADIAN REP (JAY) SAID HE THOUGHT ISSUE OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS HYPOTHETICAL AND THAT THIS ASPECT OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION AT SPRING SESSION. WESTERN GROUP AGREED.

4. NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTED THAT PERMANENT CHAIRMEN FOR INFORMAL MEETING WOULD "SOW CONTINUITY" AND PROPOSED THAT CHAIRMAN-OF-THE-DAY ON FIRST DAY OF INFORMALS MIGHT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESIGNATED PERMANENT CHAIRMAN OF INFORMAL MEETINGS IN THAT TOPIC. NETHERLANDS REP'S PROPOSAL WAS OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT ROTATING CHAIR DID NOT INSURE DESIRABLE DELEGATE WOULD BE CHAIRING PLENARY ON OPENING DAY OF INFORMAL MEETINGS. CANADIAN REP SUGGESTED CHOOSING PERMANENT CHAIRMAN FOR EACH SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS. THIS, TOO, WAS DEEMED UNDESIRABLE AS IT WOULD INVOLVE THE INFORMAL MEETINGS IN POLITICS AMONG THE THREE GROUPS.

5. NETHERLANDS REP RAISED QUESTION OF ALLOWING OBSERVERS TO SIT IN BACK OF CCD. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE MORE "HARMFUL THAN HELPFUL," AND SUGGESTED ALLOWING OBSERVERS AT PLENARY MEETINGS WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC ARE NEAR COMPLETION. US REP DID NOT FAVOR OPENING OF CCD MEETINGS TO OBSERVERS. CANADIAN REP PROPOSED FORMING AD HOC GROUP TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF OBSERVERS, AND WHILE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON THIS PROPOSAL, IT REMAINS FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. THE COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM (CNP), WESTERN GROUP AGREED THAT LITTLE WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN INFORMAL MEETINGS. CANADIAN REP SAID OTTAWA HAD CONTACTED NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT RE AMBASSADOR CLARK'S UNFAVORABLE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE LONDON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP AND WAS TOLD THAT VIEWS WERE THOSE OF AMB CLARK, NOT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. WESTERN GROUP AGREED CNP PROPOSAL WAS PERSONAL PROPOSAL OF AMB CLARK.

7. US REP RELAYED INTEREST ON PART OF NON-WESTERN GROUP CCD MEMBERS IN OBSERVING WESTERN GROUP MEETINGS. UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION ENDED DISCUSSION OF OPENING MEETINGS OF WESTERN GROUP.

8. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARA 4, REF A, US REP INFORMED MEETING THAT USG IS PREPARED TO SEND EXPERT/EXPERTS TO INFORMAL MEETINGS ON MDW. ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT JAPAN STATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD ALSO SEND EXPERT. FRG SUGGESTED WESTERN GROUP MEETING WITH EXPERTS BEFORE BEGINNING OF INFORMALS ON MDW. (SEE SEPTTEL).

9. PURSUANT INSTRUCTIONS PARA 3, REF B, US REP SAID US WOULD SUPPORT WYZNER CANDIDACY FOR SEABED REVCON PRESIDENCY. DETAILS PROVIDED SEPTTEL.

10. FRG REP ASKED IF WESTERN REPS COULD SHED LIGHT ON RESPECTIVE SSOD PREPCON'S REPRESENTATION. UK REP SAID HMG WOULD SEND FIRST SECRETARY OF MISSION IN NEW YORK TO FIRST PERSON AND SOMEONE FROM LONDON TO SECOND; CANADA, ITALY, JAPAN AND PROBABLY FRG WILL ALSO SEND SOMEONE FROM THEIR NEW YORK MISSIONS TO FIRST PREPCOM; WITH REGARD TO SECOND PREPCOM, CANADA THOUGHT SOMEONE FROM OTTAWA (HAMLIN) AND SOMEONE FROM THEIR GENEVA MISSION (SIMARD) WOULD ATTEND; ITALY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SOMEONE FROM GENEVA, POSSIBLY DI BERNARDO, FRG SAID TENTATIVE PLANS WERE TO SEND SCHLAICH, AND JAPAN HAD NO INFORMATION ON REPRESENTATIVE FOR SECOND MEETING. US AND NETHERLANDS REPS SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON COMPOSITION OF THEIR SSOD DELEGATIONS.

11. UK DEL (KENYON) REMINDED GROUP THAT SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP SAID IT NEEDS TO MEET THROUGH FRIDAY MORNING AND, THEREFORE, LAST CCD PLENARY MUST BE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 29.

12. NEXT MEETING OF WESTERN GROUP WILL BE WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9. CATTO

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